

REFLECTIONS

IMMACARE INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2020



This building is a contributing property to the National Frog Hollow Historic District. It was constructed in 1894 as the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church. This faith community began a winter shelter in 1981. In 2000, the property was sold to the nonprofit that was operating the shelter, now known as ImmaCare Inc. A restoration project was completed in 2020. May this architectural treasure built to worship God and to serve God's people continue to serve and shine light on the dignity of every person who graces these doors, each created in the image of God.





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Message from the Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What a historic few years everyone globally has been through, learning how to weather the COVID-19 pandemic, while keeping ourselves and our families safe. On an agency-level, during the reporting year, the long-awaited major renovations to ImmaCare's Emergency Shelter progressed, with only a brief pause due to a few COVID-19 obstacles. But the wait has been worth it as the results are breathtaking. If you have not already done so, we invite you to visit our website (www.ImmaCare.org) to view photos of the completed renovations.

While the shelter was closed due to the renovations, we dedicated time and thought to improving upon our mission and on how, as an agency, we can better support our clients to end their homelessness. In addition to the physical transformation, ImmaCare's Emergency Shelter transformed into a Housing Navigation Center, a new low-barrier, service-enriched shelter with a focus on individuals working on ending their homelessness. As COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease for shelters, we are looking forward to providing even more intensive onsite support services for all. Though the reporting year brought countless changes and challenges to the world, as well as to ImmaCare, one thing that continues to amaze us is the overt generosity of you – our funders, donors, and supporters. Understanding the many challenges an agency such as ours has faced during this critical time, many of you made the much-appreciated decision to provide even more help.

Some helped in unique ways, such as holding a socially distanced dance fundraiser and working on garden beautification at our Casa de Francisco housing development. We also had our reliable and longstanding food group volunteers donating nonperishable food items for those living outdoors as well as countless individuals making first-time monetary contributions. All of your support has allowed ImmaCare to continue the good work that we do. We had private foundations award our agency grants in addition to their normal grantmaking. Through their kindness, we were able to offer continuity of services to those we serve.

It certainly has been a time period that no one could have or would have predicted. But it also was a year that we never would have gotten through without the support of each and every one of you. As we celebrate our new renovated shelter building, we are so thankful to you for continuing to believe in ImmaCare and our mission to serve those experiencing homelessness. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Mayo

Board President

Louis Gilbert

Executive Director

ImmaCare Endowment Fund

Did you know ImmaCare has established the "ImmaCare Endowment Fund" at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to ensure our financial future?

In just four short years, we have grown it to nearly \$100,000, thanks to the generosity of our donors. The annual distribution from the Endowment Fund is unrestricted income for ImmaCare – and the more we grow the fund, the more unrestricted income ImmaCare receives.

Should you wish to support agency programming in perpetuity, *you can make a check payable to: HFPG, Inc. for ImmaCare Endowment Fund*

And send to: Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 10 Columbus Blvd., 8th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106
The Endowment Fund is also able to accept gifts of securities. For more information, please contact **Teresa Wierbicki, Director of Strategic Development, at (860) 580-5644.**

Brighter Days Ahead



Last winter, when 32-year-old Simon Gaston Jr. lost the apartment he shared with his parents due to not being able to afford the rent, they went to live in Bushnell Park. During the day, Simon would walk around Hartford and go into stores, soup kitchens and the library trying to keep busy and protected from the elements. When darkness would fall, Simon and his parents would settle into their secluded area away from others living in the park.

Early in the 14 months he lived outdoors, Tony Mack, ImmaCare's Mobile Outreach Case Manager, started working with Simon and his parents on a long-term goal of helping them to secure housing. Tony brought food, provided sleeping bags and tents to keep them safe, and began to guide

them on what needed to be done to secure housing.

Though he found comfort that his parents were with him and they were able to keep each other safe, Simon hated living outdoors. He especially despised winter nights that were so frigid that he dreaded waking up having to face the bitter cold of each new day. Still, he did not give up hope and continued to work with Tony as summer turned to fall.

Just as Simon began to fear the approaching winter season, ImmaCare's newly renovated emergency shelter reopened, and Simon was given one of the first beds while he waited for his apartment to be ready. At the same time, Tony was able to help Simon's

parents secure their own apartment and they are now doing well.

Once in ImmaCare's shelter, Simon began to work with case manager Janievette Correa and, today, Simon lives in his own apartment and is settled into a new routine. He hopes to find a part-time job and get acclimated in his new neighborhood.

Getting out of Bushnell Park and into the shelter, followed by having his own home, was life-changing for Simon. "It was very challenging living outdoors and no one should ever have to live like that," he said. "This was the most difficult time in my life, and I am happy to have survived beyond that. I am now looking ahead to brighter days."

The Reality of Overcoming Homelessness



There are many misconceptions about individuals experiencing homelessness. Some believe that overcoming homelessness is as simple as getting a job or that if someone is homeless, they must have made a bad choice that led them to that point. However, the reality is much more complex, and it is much easier to become homeless than it is to overcome it.

About 10 years ago, Nathan Meadows moved to Connecticut from New Jersey in search of a fresh start. A few years after the move, he faced a long string of mishaps. As a result of a difficult break-up, Nathan not only lost his relationship, he also lost his home. Nathan has been homeless ever since.

Just after becoming homeless, Nathan lost his warehouse job due to the stressors of being homeless and the daily struggle of getting to work without transportation. From his own experience, Nathan said, "Employers want someone

with stability and don't want to hire someone who is homeless." Though Nathan is a hard worker, he feels his homelessness often influences the final decision of an employer. Nathan has worked hard to secure an income

"ImmaCare helped me realize what I can be and to keep on trying... I can't wait to one day come back and say, 'Look what I've accomplished'."

- Nathan Meadows

working in various fields, but each job opportunity eventually came to an end. Nathan's harsh reality was that he was homeless and maintaining a job was just one of his many battles. Nathan also struggles with mental health. Long before he became homeless, Nathan was diagnosed with depression, which has worsened since becoming homeless. He

eventually began drinking to cope and has since taken measures to become sober.

After attending a 30-day treatment program, Nathan was sober for an entire year. However, once discharged from the program, he could not afford rent and was once again living on the streets and drinking to forget his troubles.

Nathan eventually was placed in ImmaCare's shelter and today he is working with Supportive Housing Case Manager Denise Mitchell to secure housing. Despite the intersecting obstacles of homelessness, Nathan continues to work toward a better life. "It's a struggle to pick up all the pieces and restart your life," he said. Nathan's story is still being written. He is a testament to those that also continue to struggle and work against the odds and misconceptions of being homeless.

Consolidated Statements of Activities For the year Ended September 30, 2020

Changes in net assets without donor restrictions:

Support and revenue:

Grants and contracts	\$ 2,849,526
Contributions.....	-
Contributed goods and services	46,928
Special events	110,910
Program service revenue	115,558
Interest and dividend income.....	6,338
Miscellaneous income	6,781
Net assets released from restrictions	3,938
Total support and revenue	3,139,979

Expenses:

Program services:	
Supportive housing programs	1,323,156
Emergency shelter services.....	587,115
Casa de Francisco	708,053
Total program services	2,618,324
Management and general.....	282,585
Fundraising.....	155,647
Total expenses	3,056,556

Change in net assets without donor restrictions before other changes..... 83,423

Other changes:

Loss on the sale of assets

Change in net assets without donor restrictions 83,423

Changes in net assets with donor restrictions

Grants and contributions	3,916,261
Net assets released from restrictions	(3,938)

Change in net assets with donor restrictions 3,912,323

Change in net assets

Net assets, beginning of year

Net assets, end of year \$ 13,255,433

Statement Of Financial Position For the year Ended September 30, 2020

Assets

Cash	\$ 767,405
Cash, restricted.....	534,956
Grants receivable	5,760
Accounts receivable, net	49,672
Prepaid expenses	7,530
Security deposits.....	6,746
Cash, restricted - held by lender	653,009
Property and equipment, net	11,713,859
Total assets.....	\$ <u>13,738,937</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts payable	\$ 70,346
Accounts payable - construction	248,789
Accrued salaries and benefits	63,947
Unspent insurance claim proceeds	8,646
Refundable advances	91,776
Total liabilities.....	483,504

Net assets without donor restrictions..... (941,429)

Net assets with donor restrictions

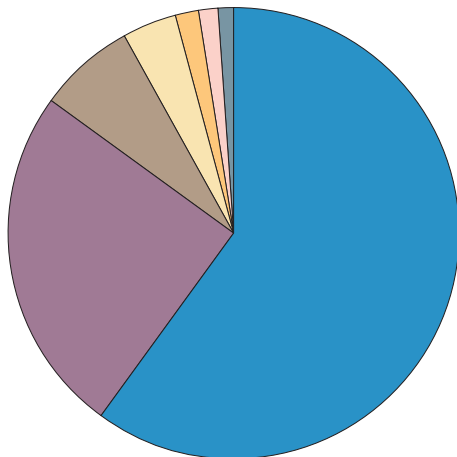
Total net assets

Total liabilities and net assets \$ 13,738,937



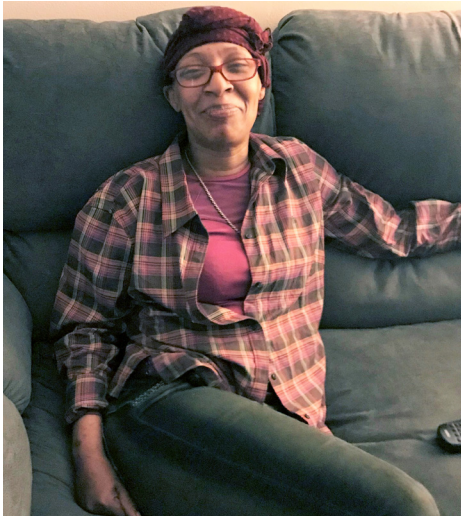
To view the photographic timeline of the completed Shelter Renovations, visit ImmaCare.org

Income Summary



October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

Overcoming Obstacles



Tahnya Drakes began her promising journey to a brighter future with ImmaCare in January 2020. Though she has achieved great things in just one short year, Tahnya has experienced her fair share of trials along the way.

Throughout her life, Tahnya has faced one obstacle after another.

By the time she was in her 40s, she had beaten cancer twice and, by age 50, had survived domestic abuse, homelessness, and a battle with drug addiction.

The same day of Tahnya's intake at ImmaCare at the beginning of 2020, Florinda Byrd started her job as a supportive housing case manager there. They quickly formed a bond when Tahnya was assigned to Florinda's case load.

Tahnya's journey over the past year has not been an easy one. She tried to take on too much all at once and was discouraged when her goals fell through. As a recent domestic abuse survivor and in recovery from drug addiction, Tahnya had a lot on her plate. Florinda stepped in with the tools to help Tahnya stay clean and was there to help her take it one step at a time. Slowly but surely, Tahnya got on track and has been looking forward to what lies ahead.

Florinda has been Tahnya's support system throughout this last year of growth and Tahnya hopes to pay it forward. She shared that her dream job would be to offer a program that helps recently incarcerated women reunite with their children. When women are released from prison, obtaining custody of their children is a difficult process and many often give up. In her own experience, Tahnya knows a support system can help anyone overcome their greatest obstacles.

Today, Tahnya continues to focus on her recovery and looks ahead to her bright future of service to others. When reflecting on her experience with ImmaCare, Tahnya said, "My case manager does her job and goes above and beyond. Florinda is my confidant, and I can talk to her about anything in the world. I'm at a point in my life where I can say 'I'm proud of myself.' I appreciate Florinda and the agency."

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First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

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Saint Josephine Bakhita Parish

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St. Mary's Church
St. Thomas the Apostle Church
The Congregational Church of South Glastonbury

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Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development
Federal Emergency Management Agency

State Department of Housing
State Department of Housing - Construction Project Bonding
State Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

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We gratefully acknowledge those donors who made a contribution to ImmaCare Inc. between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020.
If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please accept our apologies and notify the Development Office at (860) 580-5644.

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ImmaCare Inc.
Linking people and housing together

About ImmaCare

Since 1981, ImmaCare, formerly Immaculate Conception Shelter and Housing Corporation has been providing emergency housing and shelter services to thousands of homeless individuals. We focus on men who are most vulnerable, including those with debilitating illnesses, such as heart/lung disease, kidney/liver failure, HIV/AIDS or other health issues, such as alcohol or drug abuse problems, and mental health issues.

Mission

ImmaCare Inc. strives to eliminate homelessness in the Hartford region, while building a more vibrant community, by creating safe and affordable housing options and increasing the skills, income and hope of those who struggle with housing crisis.

ImmaCare's service delivery is based on a Housing First model informed by a public health, harm reduction framework. Home is seen as a right and a foundation upon which fragile, broken and vulnerable individuals can, with proper supports, focus on improving their quality of life.

Programs

Mobile Outreach, Emergency Shelter and Permanent Supportive Housing.

Within these components, ImmaCare offers emergency shelter, food, clothing, referrals for medical and mental health services, case management, entitlement assistance, housing services and referrals for addiction services, as well as referrals to education and job training.

For more information about ImmaCare or to find out how you can invest in the programs we provide, call Teresa Wierbicki, Director of Strategic Development at (860) 580-5644.